



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes –December 20, 2017

- Draft -

Present: Jane Sheldon, Stewart Pierson, Lenore Budd, George Dameron, Sue Rusten, Ray Mainer, Oren Guttman, Peter Modley, Chic McArthur

Guest: Pat Mainer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Town Forest Recreation Planning Grant** – Pat Mainer, Chair of the Town Forest Committee (TFC) attended to report on a \$10,000 grant which the committee had been awarded by VT Urban & Community Forestry Program. The purpose of this grant is to encourage recreation with a focus on conservation, wildlife and sustainability. As part of the requirements, the town needs to organize a steering committee to work with consultants Arrowwood Environmental and SE Group (landscape architects) who will be providing technical expertise. The steering committee should have 8-10 members, representing the TFC, the Trails Committee (TC), the Conservation Commission (CC) and the Economic Development Committee. Other interested committee members or citizens would also be welcome. The commitment would be to attend several meetings with the consultants, the first one scheduled for January. This would be an all-day event including site walks and visioning sessions. One of the goals is to get information on the level of usage in our town forests, data which committees can use to help maintain the trails. Lenore expressed concern that we need more than just a plan from these consultants, as there is already a management plan in place, we just need data and advice on how to use the information. Pat agreed and said that she was comfortable with what we would be getting from these consultants. Oren offered to be the representative from the Trails Committee. The TC expressed its appreciation for all the time and effort Pat put into this project.
- 2. Posting Advertising on Kiosks** – Tom Ayer (of the Select Board and Cedar Knoll Golf Course) approached both Pat and Lenore, as Chairs of the two relevant committees about the idea of posting advertising in the trailhead kiosks as a way for the committees, to make money to support our activities. Pat said that the TFC had tabled discussing the issue until the January meeting but she asked us our opinion. Our consensus was that it would detract from the purpose of the kiosk and aesthetics of the trail head, and had too many operational issues to be fairly implemented. Jane suggested that the Economic Development Committee might consider making up a brochure listing relevant local businesses (restaurants, B&B's, etc.) and put them in

holders on the sides of the kiosks, as we now do with trail maps. Pat will bring this idea to the TFC and Economic Development Committee.

3. **Minutes** – Sue made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting, Ray seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Budget** – Oren had purchased hand saws and rope for \$62, which leaves our total funds at \$688.
5. **Buck Hill Parking Area** – Lenore sent in the preliminary Vermont Recreational Trails Program grant application by the December 1st deadline. Peter has contacted six contractors, and has received two bids and one “no interest.” He is meeting with a fourth contractor next week to review the specs. He will close the bidding process at the end of this month. The deadline for the full grant application is February 1st.
6. **Rec Field Path to Route 116** – Jane met with property owner Joe Bissonette last month to walk and mark his preferred route along his field. Flags were placed so mowing the pedestrian path could begin as soon as the area was dried in the spring. There are some places where fill may be needed to smooth out some steep rises. Once the path is made, the sidewalk along Route 116 in front of Kinney Drug will be required to be extended over Patrick Brook to connect with the path.
7. **Storm Damage Repair** – Several members of the TC along with many volunteers worked hard on December 2nd to clear the fallen trees from the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF). Our efforts have been well documented in the Hinesburg Record and The Citizen. Lenore was able to collect names of additional skilled workers recruited by Peter VanVranken for future projects. Sue reported that we still have the VT Fish and Wildlife (VF&W) land to clear. She will contact Peter V to see if we can get a work party organized to finish the work in January.
8. **VT Fish and Wildlife License Agreement** – Lenore reported that the license between the town and the VF&W expires next week. Chic offered to contact them to renew it. No one had any changes to suggest to the agreement.
9. **Election of Officers** – Lenore, Sue and Jane offered to continue as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary respectively. Ray made the motion to reelect the slate as presented, Peter seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. George asked that the appreciation of the rest of the committee members for the officers’ continued commitment be written into the minutes.
10. **Recreation Conference** – Sue mentioned that there was a state recreation conference to be held in Burlington in April. She thought it would be a good way for us to network with other towns and get ideas for events or activities. Lenore will send the information to us to see if anyone would like to go. This item will be discussed further at the January meeting.

- 11. Birding Event** – Lenore contacted the Conservation Commission and Mark Labarr of Audubon Vermont about organizing a warbler-related event at Geprags Park in May. Both are interested. The event would likely occur on a weekend in mid-May and include mist netting and banding birds.
- 12. Record Articles** – Jane has written the article for the January issue and George will write one for the February issue, the deadline for which has yet to be published.
- 13. Sidewalk Extension from Commerce Street to Riggs Road** – The Village North Sidewalk (along the east side of Route 116 between Commerce Street and Riggs Road) will move into the local permitting part process in 2018. The hope is to go out to bid and possibly begin construction in 2018. The Town was awarded a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant in 2012 for this project. Wetlands, floodplain, and right-of-way issues have extended the state permitting process until now.
- 14. Group Photo** – Many thanks to Debbie Dameron who came from home on this chilly evening to take the group photo of our committee for the January article in the Record!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary